



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 7, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Intensified fighting between Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northwest district of Mannar since December 2007 has decreased humanitarian access in the district, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian agencies are providing assistance to the nearly 15,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Manthai West division of the district through the LTTE-controlled Kilinochchi District to the north.
- On February 22, OCHA released the 2008 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Sri Lanka, developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Country Team in consultation with the GOSL, donors, and other stakeholders. The CHAP appeal requested a total of \$175.4 million for emergency relief, protection, and early recovery activities.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.4 million for IDP assistance programs.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | | SOURCE |
|--|---------|--------------------------|
| IDPs in Mannar District | 23,094 | OCHA – February 22, 2008 |
| IDPs displaced by conflict since April 2006 ¹ | 186,893 | OCHA – February 29, 2008 |

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka | \$1,394,991 |
| USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Sri Lanka | \$21,754,400 |
| State/PRM ³ Assistance to Sri Lanka..... | \$875,000 |
| Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka | \$24,024,391 |

CURRENT SITUATION

- Fighting between the GOSL and the LTTE resumed in April 2006, with resulting population displacement reaching a peak of approximately 308,000 individuals in March 2007. Following military gains by the GOSL in the east, hostilities have shifted to the north, and more than 145,000 of the 185,000 people displaced by the current round of fighting reside in the five northern districts Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mulaitivu, and Vavuniya. Conflict has displaced more than 22 percent of the total population in Mannar and Mulaitivu districts, and more than 34 percent of the total population in Kilinochchi district, according to OCHA.
- In addition, more than 300,000 people remain displaced by fighting prior to the 2002 ceasefire, 100,000 others remain displaced by the 2004 tsunami, and more than 20,000 refugees have left Sri Lanka for Tamil Nadu, India. OCHA is monitoring nearly 120,000 returnees in the eastern districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee.
- On January 16, 2008, the GOSL formally withdrew from the 2002 ceasefire agreement with the LTTE, leading to the departure of the international Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

Humanitarian Access and Protection

- According to OCHA, since October 2007, humanitarian access has declined in the northern part of the country while improving in the east, as fighting increasingly focused on the northern line of control between GOSL and LTTE forces. Humanitarian access to the Jaffna peninsula remains limited to sea and air transport due to the continued closure of the main highway.

¹ This number does not include those displaced by conflict prior to the 2002 ceasefire, those displaced by the December 2004 tsunami, or refugees in Tamil Nadu, India. This number is the total current number of IDPs, excluding populations that have been displaced since April 2006 but have returned to areas of origin.

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

- OCHA has reported that material, security, human rights, and legal vulnerabilities as well as movement restrictions are contributing to the particularly difficult protection environment faced by IDPs. In addition, looting, harassment and extortion attributed to paramilitary groups have undermined rule of law and have made a return to normality more difficult for returnees in eastern areas of the country. Forced recruitment of child soldiers also remains an issue. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has recorded over 6,245 abductions attributed to the LTTE and another 434 attributed to the Karuna faction between January 2002 and November 2007.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA is funding the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to implement protection programming for IDPs and returnees in Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts. USAID/OFDA funded Save the Children/UK (SC/UK), UNICEF, and World Vision to support protection activities and provide material assistance for conflict-affected families in northern and eastern Sri Lanka in FY 2007.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- OCHA is providing in-country coordination, information management, and other support services to humanitarian organizations by serving as the secretariat for the IASC and through the work of district-level field coordination officers. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided support to OCHA and funded a geographic information systems specialist for USAID/Sri Lanka to assist with humanitarian information management and reporting.
- Toward the end of FY 2007, USAID/OFDA supported Internews to develop multi-media resources, including radio programming, newspaper inserts, posters, and pamphlets. These resources provide information on topics including aid delivery and services available to displaced persons. At least 300,000 IDPs are estimated to have benefited from this program.

Food Security

- According to OCHA, the prices of staple foods in Sri Lanka have increased by more than 50 percent over the past year. The GOSL reported that the food price increase has been exacerbated by a 12.5 percent shortfall in the domestic rice supply, including 2.5 percent of the total rice harvest destroyed by localized flooding in Ampara, Mannar, and Batticaloa districts. In addition, displacement and the disruption to livelihoods in conflict-affected areas have affected household earning power and the availability of food.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided nearly 25,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at more than \$21 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support IDPs and vulnerable populations, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

Logistics

- The 2008 CHAP for Sri Lanka notes that as the humanitarian situation deteriorates and greater restrictions are placed on the movement of commercial goods into areas outside of GOSL control, humanitarian priorities include logistical considerations, including sufficient capacity to pre-position, store, and transport relief supplies for communities affected by the conflict. The humanitarian community is increasingly relying upon WFP and other international organizations providing logistical support to transport food and other relief items.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided \$750,000 to WFP for logistical support and relief commodities. This funding will contribute to providing assistance for approximately 200,000 vulnerable people in Sri Lanka.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On August 11, 2006, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James R. Moore declared a disaster due to the increasing conflict and resulting IDPs in Sri Lanka, and requested assistance from USAID/OFDA. On October 10, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake renewed the disaster declaration and requested additional USAID/OFDA support for FY 2008.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.4 million for IDP assistance activities. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA allocated nearly \$7 million to support nutrition, protection, logistics, shelter, coordination and information management activities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- In FY 2008, State/PRM has provided \$875,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support improved reception services, shelters, and water and sanitation facilities for Sri Lankan refugees in India. State/PRM has provided \$2.3 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. State/PRM is also contributing \$21.1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict victims in Sri Lanka.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008

| <i>Implementing Partner</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--|--|---|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE | | | |
| NRC | Protection | Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts | \$614,991 |
| WFP | Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies | Countrywide | \$750,000 |
| | Administration | Countrywide | \$30,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA¹ | | | \$1,394,991 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | |
| WFP | 24,950 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Countrywide | \$21,754,400 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$21,754,400 |
| STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE | | | |
| CRS | Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Countrywide | \$875,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM | | | \$875,000 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008 | | | \$24,024,391 |

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 7, 2008.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka can be found at www.reliefweb.int
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/